Court #1

wherein

U is O or a lone pair;

V is O, $-CH_2-$, -CH=CH-, or $-C\equiv C-$;

m and n are each integers from 0 to 7 and m+n is 0 to 7;

W is CO, COO, $CONR^1$, CSO, $CSNR^1$, SO_2, or SO_2NR^1, with the provisos that:

a) V is not $-CH_2-$ when W is CO,

b) m+n is 1 or 2 when V is $-CH_2-$ and W is SO_2,

c) m=n=0 when V is -CH=CH- and W is CO or SO_2,

d) m is 1 to 7 when V is O, and

e) m is 1 to 3 when V is O, W is CO or SO_2, and n is 0;

A^1 is H, lower-alkyl or lower-alkenyl,

A^2 is cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, lower-alkenyl, lower-alkynyl or lower-alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy, lower-alkoxy or lower-alkoxy-carbonyl, or

A^1 and A^2 bond together to form $-A^1-A^2-$, wherein $-A^1-A^2-$ is lower-alkylene or lower-alkenylene, optionally substituted by R^2, and one $-CH_2-$ group of $-A^1-A^2-$ is optionally replaced by NR^3, S, or O;

A^3 and A^4 are independently hydrogen or lower-alkyl;

A^5 is lower-alkyl optionally substituted with halogen, lower-alkenyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl-lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, aryl, aryl-lower-alkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaryl-lower-alkyl;

R^2 is lower-alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-lower-alkyl, or $N(R^4,R^5)$;

R^1, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen or lower-alkyl; and

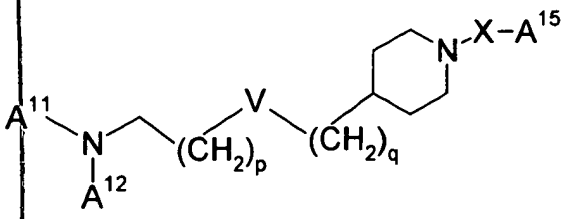
When A^1 is not bonded to A^2, A^1 and A^3 optionally bond together to form $-A^1-A^3-$, wherein $-A^1-A^3-$ is lower-alkylene or lower-alkenylene, optionally substituted by R^2, and one $-CH_2-$ group of $-A^1-A^3-$ is optionally replaced by NR^3, S, or O; or

Cont A1

pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters of the compounds of formula (I).

24. (Amended) A compound of compounds of formula (Ia)

A2



(Ia)

wherein

V is O, $-CH_2-$, -CH=CH-, or -C≡C-;

p is an integer from 0 to 5;

q 0, 1 or 2;

X is CO, COO, SO_2, or SO_2NH, with the provisos that:

a) V is not $-CH_2-$ when X is CO,

b) p+q is 1 or 2 when V is $-CH_2-$ and X is SO_2,

c) p=q=0 when V is -CH=CH- and X is CO or SO_2,

d) p is 1 to 5 when V is O, and

e) p is 1 to 3 when V is O, X is CO or SO_2, and q is 0;

A^{11} is methyl or ethyl;

A^{12} is cyclopropyl, lower-alkenyl, or lower-alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy or lower-alkoxy; and

A^{15} is lower-alkyl optionally substituted with halogen, lower-alkenyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl-lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, aryl, aryl-lower-alkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaryl-lower-alkyl; or

Cont A2

pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters of the compounds of formula (Ia).

25. (Amended) The compound of claim 24, wherein A^{12} is cyclopropyl, lower alkenyl of 2 to 4 carbon atoms, lower alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, lower alkyl substituted with a lower-alkoxy having a total of 2 to 4 carbon atoms, or lower alkyl substituted with hydroxy.

A3

43. (Amended) The compound of claim 42, selected from the group consisting of allyl-{4-[1-(4-chloro-benzenesulfonyl-piperidin-4-yloxy]-butyl}-methyl-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

44. (Amended) The compound of claim 42, selected from the group consisting of allyl-{3-[1-(4-bromo-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yloxy]-propyl}-methyl-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A4

47. (Amended) The compound of claim 46, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid butylamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A5

49. (Amended) The compound of claim 48, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid cyclohexylmethyl-amide, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A6

51. (Amended) The compound of claim 50, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

53. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (4-chloro-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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54. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (4-bromo-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

55. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(cyclopropyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

56. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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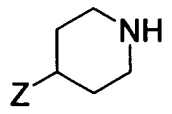
58. (Amended) The compound of claim 57, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

61. (Amended) The compound of claim 60, selected from the group consisting of methyl-propyl-{4-[1-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-butyl}-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

68. (Amended) The compound of claim 67, selected from the group consisting of methyl-propyl-{3-[1-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-prop-2-ynyl}-amine ~~and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.~~

71. (Amended) The compound of claim 67, selected from the group consisting of ethyl-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-{4-[1-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-but-3-ynyl}-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

73. (Amended) A process for the preparation of compounds according to claim 1, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein Z is $(A^1,A^2)N\text{-}C(A^3,A^4)\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{-}V\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}$, $X\text{-}CH_2\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{-}V\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}$, $HO(CH_2)_n\text{-}$, or $HOOC(CH_2)_n\text{-}$, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, iodine, methanesulfonyl, or toluenesulfonyl, and A^1, A^2, A^3, A^4, V, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with $ClSO_2\text{-}A^5$, $ClCOO\text{-}A^5$, $ClCSO\text{-}A^5$, $OCN\text{-}A^5$, $SCN\text{-}A^5$, $HOOC\text{-}A^5$, or $ClSO_2NR^1\text{-}A^5$, wherein A^5 is as defined in claim 1.

75. (Amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases in a mammal which are associated with 2,3-oxidosqualene: lanosterol cyclase (OSC) such as